

Clelia 618

Pilot: Tim Askew

Obs 1: John Reed

Obs 2 :Andy Shepard

Date: 09/04/01

Visibility: 35'

Depth range: 200-335'

Time: 08:12-11:22

Sebastian North- 618

Objectives: Transects, Exploration, Fish Assessment, Collections

General Habitat: This part of the Sebastian area consists of a large pinnacle . The depth at the peak is about 200' and around 285' at its base. There is about a 30-45 degree angle to the side slopes.

- The **peak** consists of almost 100% coral rubble with scattered 1-2' standing intact dead *Oculina* colonies. Live colonies along the peak were small (about 6") and isolated. A few small sand coves were present. The peak has a large finger of dead rubble which extends off the North slope. It is about 10' wide with a 70 degree slope on each side.
- The **sides** of the pinnacle consist of almost all dead *Oculina* rubble with a few intact clumps and sand bowls. Live *Oculina* heads were present (about 1-2' in diameter) and commonly seen even though they were scattered about.
- At the **base** of the pinnacle (273') slope there is a large rock bolder area on a sand bottom. The large rock outcrops ranged from 5-10' and were highly eroded. A few boulders had good size live *Oculina* heads of about 1' diameter attached to them. Wire coral, a small gorgonian colony, red/orange sponges and a few patches of solitary cup corals (1' all together) were also seen here.
- On another part of the pinnacle **base**, a series of 6-12' live *Oculina* colonies about 10' long was spotted. Other large dead intact colonies were also in this area.
- There is also another **2nd pinnacle** about 200 yards to the North of the 1st pinnacle that the sub explored on this dive.
 - Between the 2 pinnacles there is a large sand trough/beach.
 - At the base of this 2nd pinnacle there is a large area of hard white clay-like bottom with some rock outcrops. Live and dead 1-2' standing *Oculina* were seen.
 - The sides of the slope were almost all dead coral rubble.
 - The peak was composed of rubble, some intact dead *Oculina* colonies, and sand bowls

Invertebrates:

- One orange starfish (*Asteroidea*)
- Brittle stars (*Ophiuroidea*) were scattered over the whole area, usually under intact dead/live coral
- A few black and a few pencil urchins (*Diadematidae* and *Eucidaris*)
- 2-3 hermit crabs, the sub saw a box crab
- Orange encrusting sponges fairly common

Human Impacts:

- 1 anchor line
- trash- aluminum sheeting/ side of a boat
- 1 cloth/sail
- 2 - fishing line; 1- lead sinker

Fish:

- Fish species were very spread out over this area. The extremely large numbers of Anthiids were absent. They seemed to be in smaller groups of 25- 100 instead of 1000's.
- Most of the small species aggregated by the live and intact standing heads of dead coral. Only Serranus phoebe and Halichores bathyphilus were spread evenly over the habitat types.
- There were very few smaller fish associated with the large rock bolders except two species which are not that common, the Bearded Brotula and 2 other small Brotulids. These species were inhabiting an area under one of the rock overhanging ledges.

Commercially Important Species- most aggregated by the large rock bolder area.

- **1-2 Epinephelus drummondhayi** (One was about 2' across)
- **1 Pagrus pagrus**
- **5 Mycteroperca phenax** seen on video, the sub saw **12** at one time (Exertions present on caudal fins- no grey head displays)
* All the species seen in this habitat seemed to be large adults. This rock outcrop area could be a grouper aggregation site.
- Over the **coral rubble areas** on the pinnacle slope:
 - **3 Lutjanus campechanus**
 - **1 Mycteroperca phenax**

Other species observed

A	Anthiinae		Equetus lanceolatus		Paralichthys sp.
S	Apogon sp	S	Equetus sp.	F	Plectranthias garrupellus
	Bodianus pulchellus		Equetus umbrosus	S	Plectrypops retrospinus
	Centropristis ocyurus		Equetus iwamotoi		Priacanthus arenatus
	Centropristis striata	M	Halichores bathyphilus	M	Pristigenys alta
	Centropristis fuscula		Halichores sp		Rypticus maculatus
M	Chaetodon aya	M	Hemanthias vivanus	S	Serranus annularis
	Chaetodon ocellatus	F	Holacanthus	M	Serranus phoebe

A	Anthiinae		Equetus lanceolatus		Paralichthys sp.
			bermudensis		
M	Chaetodon sedentarias	A	Holanthias martinicensis	M	Seriola dumerili
	Chaetodon sp.		Holocentrus adscensionis		Seriola rivoliana
	Chromis cyanea		Holocentrus sp.		Synodus sp
F	Chromis enchrysurus	F	Labridae		Callionymidae
	Chromis scotti	F	Liopropoma eukrines	S	Lactophrys quadricornis
	Decodon puellaris		Muraena sp.	S	Brotula barbatus
	Diplectrum formosum	F	Ogcocephalus sp.	F	Brotulidae

Good shots:

3chip1:

- 13:12--1st pinnacle's peak, 100% rubble
618-1.mpg
618-1.jpg
- 47:33---finger area described in general habitat description ,pure rubble, 70 degree slope on each side
618-2.mpg
618-2.jpg
- 57:35---Large rock outcrops---8-10', Scamp in view
618-3.mpg
618-3.jpg

3chip2

- 35:10---Live Oculina(1' head) on sand bottom, Bank Butterflyfish
618-4.mpg
618-4.jpg
- 39:57---Intact dead coral with Bank Butterflyfish, Reef Butterflyfish, Wrasse Bass, and Apricot Bass all around this dead colony
618-5.mpg
618-5.jpg
- 44:38---8-10' across area covered with 1-2' live Oculina, large dead intact in background, Greenband Wrasse and Rough Tongue Bass
618-6.mpg
618-6.jpg

3chip3

- 00:01 Clay outcrop riddled with holes from borers/erosion
618-7.mpg
618-7.jpg

8. 16:54---2nd pinnacle, 1 and ½' live Oculina colony on rise of 2nd pinnacle,
almost all rubble...Blue Angelfish and a few Rough Tongue Bass are associated with
it

618-8.mpg

618-8.jpg

